

## IRTS Radio News Bulletin Sunday June 18th, 2023

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### **Tom McNamara EI8DD Silent Key**

Galway Radio Experimenters Club regret to announce the sudden passing of their member of over 40 years, Tom McNamara EI8DD, on Thursday the 15th of June 2023. A native of Achill, Co. Mayo, Tom settled in Galway and made it his second home following a career as a Merchant Navy Radio Officer. Tom was an avid CW operator, often preferring a straight key and his Morse was instantly recognisable. Tom was a keen DX chaser and served as QSL manager for the club for many years. GREC sends its deepest sympathies to his wife Teena, daughter Aideen, son Ronan, and his extended family. May he rest in peace.

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### **EI7FR/WB2EZM Silent Key**

We also regret to announce that Harry McGrath EI7FR/WB2EZM passed away in Port Washington, New York on Thursday last June 15th in his 97th year. Harry was well known to many older EI amateurs as he was a regular participant in the Irish Hour on 20m and 15m over the years. He was a native of Wexford and made an annual trip home until the start of the Covid pandemic. We extend our deepest sympathy to his family, both here and in the USA, and to his many friends on both sides of the Atlantic. May he rest in peace.

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### **HF Newsreaders Urgently Required**

HF newsreaders are urgently required for the weekly Sunday morning 40m and 80m IRTS news bulletin rota. The rota is to share the news reading duties amongst the entire panel of newsreaders and it ensures that the workload is evenly spread out. The more people that volunteer the less often each individual reader will have to do the reading. There is very little involved in the reading and no experience is necessary. If any licensed IRTS member living in EI feels like that they would be interested in becoming part of the IRTS News Readers panel, can they please get in touch with the IRTS News Coordinator Seany EI2HZB directly on 083 4713001 or by email to [irts\\_pro /at/ irts.ie](mailto:irts_pro/at/irts.ie).

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### **South Eastern Amateur Radio Group EI2WRC**

EI2WRC is delighted to announce the launch of a brand-new initiative titled "Sponsor A SWL". The initiative will see the group reaching out to a selected SWL from the southeast area each year who has shown serious interest in completing the online HAREC course and getting their licence. As part of the venture, the club will give free membership to the person to the EI2WRC club for one year. In addition, the club will pay the person's membership of the IRTS to complete the online HAREC course with the short-wave listeners club and pay the exam fee for the chosen SWL to sit their exam. Club members will also act as mentors and assist the SWL while doing the HAREC course if they are having issues or difficulties with any aspect of the course.

The chosen SWL for this year's launch has already been picked and will be announced soon! The June meeting of the South Eastern Amateur Radio Group EI2WRC will take place on Monday the 26th of June 2023 at 8 p.m. sharp at the New Community Men's Shed, Ozanam Centre,

Coffee House Lane, Waterford. New members, or anyone interested in learning more about amateur radio or the group are as always very welcome to attend.

Information about the South Eastern Amateur Radio Group can be found on their website [www.searg.ie](http://www.searg.ie), via email to SouthEasternARG /at/ gmail.com, Facebook, or /at/ seargnews on Twitter. In addition, please feel free to go along to any of their club meetings or events.

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### **IARU Monitoring System Newsletter**

The role of the IARU Monitoring System is to search and identify transmissions sent by intruders on our bands. The May edition of the IARUS Monitoring System Region 1 newsletter has been published. In this, they note a return of seasonal behaviour associated with enhanced propagation and other factors. Examples include large numbers of illegal fishing buoys in the lower part of the 10m band, and military stations operating in the 20m band. Michael EI3GYB is the IARU Region 1 coordinator for Ireland and a regular contributor to the monthly reports. The report and further information may be found at [www.iaru-rl.org](http://www.iaru-rl.org)

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### **Contests & Events**

HAM RADIO will take place in Friedrichshafen on Lake Constance next weekend. This year's event will see a mixture of commercial exhibitors, associations from around the world, and the largest radio flea market in Europe.

The American Radio Relay League (ARRL) field day takes place next weekend. Over June 24th and 25th, more than 40,000 hams throughout North America will set up temporary transmitting stations in public places to demonstrate ham radio. Modes used on the HF bands will be CW, digital, and SSB.

The same weekend will feature the His Majesty King of Spain SSB contest. This HF band contest will run from midday UTC next Saturday until midday UTC on Sunday. The exchange must include a signal report and serial number.

The 2023 IRTS VHF/UHF Field Day takes place over the weekend of Saturday the 1st and Sunday the 2nd of July, from 1400 UTC Saturday until 1400 UTC Sunday. There will be five separate contests covering the 6m, 4m, 2m, 70cm, and 23cm bands. The event will feature a 24 hour section and a restricted 6 hour section. A station may enter a contest on one or more band. More details and a full list of rules can be found at [www.irts.ie/rules](http://www.irts.ie/rules)

The Alexander Association preserves, documents, and displays the unique Alexanderson alternator at the old radio station in Grimeton, Sweden. This is an UNESCO World Heritage station. Alexanderson Day will be celebrated on Sunday, July 2nd. Using the callsign SAQ, the transmitter, which is almost 100 years old, is planned to be activated for two CW transmissions on 17.2 kHz. A half-wave antenna for this frequency is over 8700m long but you don't need to go to that extreme. A simple active antenna connected to the sound card of a computer is a common method to try and receive the transmissions and may be an interesting construction project to consider. Further information about the station may be found at [www.alexander.n.se](http://www.alexander.n.se)

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### **Items for Inclusion in Next Week's Radio News**

That is the news for this week. Items for inclusion in next week's radio news can be submitted by email to [newsteam@irts.ie](mailto:newsteam@irts.ie) for automatic forwarding to both the radio and printed news services. The deadline is midnight on Thursday.

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